Hemorrhoids
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An Essay
on
Hemorrhoids
by
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The etymological meaning of the word hemorrhoid, is simply a discharge of blood from the rectum or anus — Surgeons however, sanctioned by long custom, have assigned it a more extensive signification, and imply by the term, not merely a simple periodical or irregular discharge of blood from the hemorrhoidal vessels, unaccompanied by tumours; but secondly, tumours, formed by a varicose distention and morbid thickening of the coats of the hemorrhoidal veins, with, or without the presence of hæmorrhage: and thirdly, tumours, formed by an effusion of blood between the mucous and muscular coats of the rectum, which after a time coagulates and becomes vascular, assuming the appearance of an organized substance — These tumours have received different appellations, as they happen to be located

on the inside, or outside of the sphincter ani muscle. When within the sphincter, they are termed internal hemorrhoids — When without the sphincter, external hemorrhoids, or piles — They are also distinguished by the epithet open when they discharge blood, and blind hemorrhoids or piles, when they are unattended by a discharge — The blood on occasion under these circumstances, may be derived either from the arteries or veins; and may arise from three distinct sources, or rather causes; namely, from an aneurism; from the rupture of varicose vessels, which break from their too great distention; or else from an abrasion of the coats of the ~~coats~~ vessels, produced by the passage of hardened fæces —

Women are more frequently the subjects of this disease, than men; in con

sequence of their being more exposed to the remote, and exciting causes —
Persons advanced in life, are more liable to be attacked by this disease, than those, who are young; and particularly, so here they happen to be large and corpulent; however, thin and delicate people, are not entirely exempt from the disease —
The causes of the disease, are very numerous and discriptive; and among the most frequent may be enumerated, a costive habit of body; pregnancy, and particularly when attended by difficult labour; relaxation and debility of the whole lining membrane of the prime-vie, and particularly of the rectum; the suppression of some long accustomed discharge, as the menses; or the healing of an old ulcer &c;

severe exercise of any kind, particularly on horse back — The daily employment of news-paper, from which the printing ink is easily separated, has a tendency to keep up the disease; as the delicate epithelium, which covers the tumours, is very much irritated by the frequent application of so stimulating a substance — Those persons are most subject to this disease, who are of a full habit of body; and are compelled by their occupations, to lead a sedentary life —

The rectum, is peculiarly liable to inflamation and all its consequences, from several circumstances — In the first place, from its situation, being here subjected to the combined pressure of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles: and also to pressure, arising from a distention or enlargement of any of the abdominal viscera; which pressure in both instances

has a direct tendency to retard the passage of the blood through the hemorrhoidal veins. The blood has not only to contend against its own gravitation, but deprived of the assistance of valves, but as has been observed, the contractions of the muscles has a tendency to retard its progress; differing in this respect from veins in other parts of the body, where muscular action tends to facilitate the passage of venous blood towards the centre of circulation —— Secondly, the rectum from its proximity to the uterus and vagina, in the female; and the bladder and prostate gland in the male, is liable to be affected by their sexual diseases, for an enlargement of either of these organs, may in consequence of pressure, produce irritation, or by retarding the circulation of the part, give rise to inflam

mation, which may terminate in the production of varicose tumory, or an extravasation of blood in the cellular texture.

The structure of the rectum is well calculated to favour the formation of tumors, in consequence of the looseness of its cellular texture, which readily admits of great distortion. The peculiar arrangement of the muscular fibres of the lower portion of this intestine, would seem to favour the formation of piles: the longitudinal being so arranged, as to support the edge of the circular fibres, constituting what is termed the internal sphincter; and are continuous or rather lost, in the mucous membrane. The cellular texture about the anus being loose, when bloodily effused, we have distinct or cystic piles, or else a tunic ring, surrounding the entire verge of the anus. The mucous

coat being very loose, adapts itself to the dilatations and contractions of the muscular parietes of the intestine; and hence, as the bowels contract, this coat is thrown into rugæ or folds, and transverse folds by the sphincter muscle. It not unfrequently happens that one or more of these folds are protruded, during the evacuation of the bowels.

Thirdly, the rectum from its use and office is subject to disease; for the fæcal matter accumulating in its cavity, distends its walls, and thus creates an obstacle to the free passage of the blood through the veins; the capillaries chiefly suffer in this case, for the large veins ramify on the outer and serous coat of the intestine. The fæces continuing to accumulate, the rectum being more and more distended, the circulation of the blood is at length suspended in the

[illegible]. The pain is not relieved by undermining the diseased image, or by the operation of [illegible].

The significancy of which we will now add in the discussion, as a sense of weight in the back part and [illegible] of the hypogastric region accompanied with a pressing on the rectum, tenesmus and difficulty of the bowels to empty, or obeying the calls of nature is proportionate as well as the enlargement and [illegible] most [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]. We do some times find the cyst is attended by a considerable diminution of [illegible], and we do at other times by a thin inner margin, which is often as attendant on a non-vascular, or other than cancerous disease of the pelvic bones or cartilage. When contents, the pain is greatly and [illegible] by relieved but [illegible] by an [illegible]. The

pain is renewed every time the patient has occasion to evacuate his bowels — They are generally free from pain, as long as they remain internal, being here in contact with soft and yielding parts; but as soon as they protrude externally, they increase in size; and at each period, are returned with greater difficulty, requiring much time and pressure to reduce them; gradually becoming more painful and irritable, at the same time hard stationary, very inconvenient, incedible, and exquisitely sensible — not unfrequently, the sphincter contracts their bases so closely, as to cause them to slough off — by undergoing what is termed a natural cure

The appearance, presented by hemorrhoidal tumours, are extremely various; their number, depending on the period they have existed, they are situated around the verge of the

ones; sometimes of a regular bulbous and at other times of an irregular appearance; of a dark blue colour, resembling in some instances, a bunch of grapes; they are covered with a very delicate skin, which partly consists of the fine skin immediately on the outside of the veins, and partly of the mucous membrane of the intestine — The tumours are generally entire, but they have occasionally small openings, through which blood is discharged, and when they happen to be varicous, the quantity lost is sometimes very considerable

Dr. Drum, makes a distinction between varicous, and hemorrhoidal tumours, by contrasting the circumstances of their development and progress — Varicous commence by slow degrees, unmarked by pain, irritation, or heat; they are soft to the touch, oblong in form, and evince no hardness, until the blood

which they contain coagulates. They produce no pain, unless irritated externally, or become greatly distended with blood: their volume progressively increases; they are not subject to periodical changes; never shrink and disappear, or produce a discharge of blood, unless when injured by accidents or degenerate into ulcers; and that they exhibit no disposition to run into cancer or scirrhous — On the other hands, hæmorrhoids appear suddenly, and are most frequently preceded by itching and prickling sensations about the rectum and anus; weight in the perineum, and a dull pain in the region of the loins and sacrum. They are often attended by inflammation; their form is circular; they are firm, from the commencement; to their periods of their elevation, succeed a withering and wrinkling of their coverings; they have

periodical exacerbations, and remissions; then sanguineous discharges; they appear to put a crisis to other diseases, though they do not bleed; and they sometimes degenerate into scirrhous and cancerous ulcers.

Other surgeons have drawn a distinction between these two forms of tumours: however observation and experience show, that internal hæmorrhoids most frequently arise from a varicose state of the veins—external hæmorrhoids may also arise, from the same cause, in this case, the varicose veins are forced through the sphincter during the evacuation of the bowels—if they remain in this situation any time, their contents coagulate, and thus form one species of piles; though the most common form of external piles arises from an effusion of blood between the muscular and mucous coats of the intestine.—

in a Home, in his work on Veins, observes; that, in cases of long standing, hæmorrhoidal tumours are changed both in nature and appearance; their contents coagulate and become solid, their coats increase in thickness, and they resemble peculiar excrescences in other parts of the body.—

"Kirby observes, that from numerous dissections, he is inclined to believe, that this disease is not formed in a single instance, by a varicose distention of the great hæmorrhoidal veins but, that they appear to consist of a prolongation of the cellular texture, surrounded by some veins, and covered by the integuments which form the dilatation of the anus. In every case which he examined of internal hæmorrhoids, their structure was very similar. The veins themselves were enlarged in some degree

Sir James Earle, describes hemorrhoidal tumors as arising from a dilatation of the hemorrhoidal veins, and asserts, that when they are exposed to pressure, their contents are regularly and gradually become vascular, never being in any unyielding substance

This disease may terminate in several different ways: if they appear in the form of veins, by the judicious use of pressure, and by a proper attention to the bowels the veins may possibly be made to contract to their former size and if blood be effused, this may be absorbed, and resolution thus effected — When allowed to progress, it often lays the foundation for fistula in ano or for sinuous, and cancer; sometimes the patient loses his life from the hemorrhage, which is at times expired

In the treatment of hemorrhoids particular attention must be paid to the causes from whence they arise, whether of a general or local nature, and to avoid everything directly or indirectly inducing of a costive habit of body. Should that constipation ought to be overcome by the administration of some gentle laxative medicine; the patient being confined at the same time, to such articles of food as have a tendency to keep the bowels in a soluble state: and what proves most effectual in overcoming a costive habit, is the regular observance of stated intervals for the purpose of soliciting an evacuation without straining. Should the laxatives fail, the use of enemata may be resorted to with advantage; and for this purpose, such only should be selected as operate mildly, rather more to bulk, than irritating the intestines, for as little action

and irritation ought to be avoided as possible — Should an enlargement of any of the abdominal viscera, prove the remote cause of this disease, it is evident, that all attempts to cure the hemorrhoids will prove ineffectual, until the primary complaint be removed, and the pressure taken off from the hemorrhoidal veins — If they proceed from relaxation and debility of the whole lining membrane of the primæ viæ, we must employ such means, as are calculated to strengthen, and give tone, for this purpose, Mr. Abernethy recommends lime-water, joined with the Peruvian bark — The employment of anodynes under these circumstances, prove very serviceable, but setting out applications to the part, almost always increases the disease — When they arise from the suppression of some long accustomed discharge, and circumstances justify

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [

tions and what some times answers an excellent purpose the introduction of the porcelain, which operates by retarding evaporation, and thus diminishing the discharge of the hemorrhage. Should upon the lower portion of the scalum the employment of pressure by the bandage and other means, often succeeds the employment of cold applications especially to the neighbouring parts by means of cloths, or by pouring them down a height, upon a very powerful mode of diminishing the hemorrhage.

It has been observed before, when internal hemorrhages occurred, they ought if possible to be more rapidly reduced, for if they are allowed to run on in this way inflammation they increase in magnitude and [illegible] for the constitution of the sufferer when these gums are to severe seen, when by any means stopping the evaporation,

increase the irritation in the tissues and thus stimulate the inner membrane are produced which have a tendency to perpetuate the disease, and when too large to be reduced come under the appellation of hemorrhoids, and to be treated accordingly. When these tumors become very much inflamed and painful local bleeding by leeches, and sometimes by the lancet often affords much relief to the patient. The number of palliatives, recommended in this affection are numerous. The most convenient of those generally is the balsam copaiba. Rarely, or the by-doses repeated three times a day most, probably, the best dressing, is of a local nature. Tepid sponges, and astringent washes have been highly recommended. An ointment composed of equal parts of zinc, lead, gallic acid, hog's lard

with the addition of opium, or the extract of lead; or also an ointment, formed of white lead mixed into a paste with laudanum, and then incorporated with simple cerate. The infusion of oak galls, and other astringent lotions, have been generally found inefficacious. A poultice made of the green persimmon, or from a decoction of the bark of the persimmon tree has proved extremely serviceable in the hands of many people. When the breast swelling has become dry or cracking into fissures, the application of Dr. Mott's paste has proved efficacious. The dose of the bark of a middling size, taken twice or thrice a day — the nipple of the breast protruded, may be anointed with some mucilaginous or sweet butter or lard, and carefully replaced within the girth of the sphincter muscle —

When hemorrhoidal tumours become insup-
portable from their magnitude and num-
ber, interfering with the function of the
intestine, and from their being in an inflam-
ed and ulcerated state, keeping up an irri-
table action of the parts, and thereby increa-
sing the disease, an operation becomes expe-
dient for effecting a radical cure.
There are two operations now in use
among Surgeons, each of which has its
advocates, and each party, equally con-
fident of the superiority of the mode
which they have practised. Some advise
them to be removed by the knife or scissors,
others by the application of ligatures. The
last mode appears to deserve a preference,
as all danger from hemorrhage is avoided,
though the advocates of the first hold
out the danger of symptoms of strang-
ulated hernia arising, which in some

instances when the ligature has been applied, have proved extremely obstinate - baffling every remedy, save the removal of the ligature, which immediately calms every urgent symptom. After having dieted the patient for some time, if his system should require it, due attention having been paid to the evacuation, and regulation of his bowels; if necessary, the patient may be made to sit over a tub of warm water, and the parts bathed in infused fresh cabbage. This is a very useful measure, as it gently & mechanically the protrusion of the tumours through the sphincter, by the great relaxation which it produces in the parts chiefly concerned in the operation. Having succeeded in forcing out the tumours by the above means, Mr. Abernethy advises, that they should

be seized by a double hook of a breadth corresponding to the length of the tumour and drawn upwards upon the bowel, to remove them with a pair of scissors. He advises a protruded and thickened fold of the bowel to be seized in the same manner; though he thinks it safer to employ the bistoury in this case, as the depth to which the scissors may penetrate is uncertain. The incision in both cases should be made longitudinally, in the direction of the long muscles of the bowel, three resembling curved lines, parallel at each extremity. The operation having been performed, he supposes the wound to bleed as long as it is disposed to do so; and after it entirely ceases, the parts are to be completely replaced in their proper situation by the finger previously anointed. Mortification is a cause of

a hemorrhage from the small vessels, and as the body rest of any part of the bowel in the pelvis of the sphincter would produce it he advises this part of the operation to be carefully attended to — The patient should be placed in a horizontal position the waters of pond. and the parts in the neighbourhood of the anus properly washed with cold water, to check inflammation and consequent hemorrhage.
Mr Pott as well as other equally respectable surgeons, see on hands these terminations to be always recorded by the legislature The patient should undergo the same preparatory treatment as was adopted in the former operation, as hemorrhage is to be as carefully guarded against in this case, as inflammation in the other

The most approved method of removing hemorrhoidal tumors, is by means of the double canula and wire; as recommended by Dr. Physick, for the removal of scirrhous or enlarged tonsils. The canula should be about four inches in length; the wire needle should be in diameter, about one twenty fourth part of an inch; being sufficiently stiff to admit of being easily drawn against or on the tumor, when necessary. The canula being armed, may be applied, according to the experience of Mr. Ware, to the most inflamed and painful tumor on the corner; the others frequently disappear, if otherwise, the operation may be performed on the remaining tumors, one after the other. The canula should be allowed to remain about twenty four hours, when they can easily be removed, the tumors are thereafter

by a slough, in the course of three or four days — After the operation, the patient's diet should be carefully regulated; the nourishment given, ought to be of the most nutritive quality, and as small in quantity as possible; as the necessity of evacuating the alimentary canal, should be delayed, in order to give the wounded parts an opportunity of uniting — Should the bowels become irritable, an opiate pill, or a few drops of Laudanum may be exhibited to tranquilize them: however, should the whole nervous system become deranged, and a necessity existed commanding an evacuation, we may employ some gentle laxative — Under these circumstances it has been advised, that the patient should not attempt to evacuate his bowels, till his sensations become urgent; and then it should be

effected with as little effort as possible: if any part of the wound be deranged by the passage of the feces, it should be immediately replaced; and if necessary, a small quantity of laudanum may be administered to tranquilize the intestines — The wound generally heal in the course of eight or ten days, provided no untoward circumstance occur during the progress of the cure ———